



DATE: May 13, 2005
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Disaster Preparedness Training Available FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Crosse residents of La Crosse County who would like to learn how to be prepared to respond to emergencies in their communities are invited to attend a free training course. Wisconsin Emergency Management is now accepting registrations for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course scheduled for June 24-26, 2005.

The CERT program teaches citizens how to not only help their families be better prepared for emergencies, but also how to assist their neighbors when emergencies or disasters strike. CERT is a national training that prepares citizens to respond in both man-caused and natural disasters.

The CERT Program involves a series of modules, which will be held from Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26, 2005. The class includes presentations, discussions, and hands on experience on topics ranging from disaster preparedness to fire suppression, first aid, and search and rescue. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community.

This class will be held at the Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts, 405 East Hamlin St., West Salem, WI beginning Friday, June 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Registration is free but space is limited.

Registration forms are available on the Wisconsin Emergency Management Website: <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov> or contact Margie Welsh, at (608) 242-3222 or e-mail at margie.welsh@dma.state.wi.us.

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